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RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP, CA
STATE FOR USAID
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA CCHAN, ACONVERY, RTHAYER, AND RMT
USAID FOR ANE KROSEN
BANGKOK FOR ADWYER
NSC FOR CPRATT
USUN FOR DMERCADO
GENEVA FOR NKYLOH
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MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, EAID, AQ, LA, RP, TN, VM, WS

SUBJECT: MGEAP1: INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE HUMANITARIAN UPDATE #3

Summary

¶1. As of October 6, the September 30 earthquake in Indonesia has resulted in at least 704 deaths and left an additional 295 people missing. Preliminary damage assessments indicate that the humanitarian situation in Padang is stabilizing. The cluster system in Padang appears well managed and highly effective. On October 6, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), the U.S. Charge d'Affaires, the U.S. Pacific Command-designated Mission Commander, and Medan Principal Officer met with Government of Indonesia (GoI) officials and humanitarian organizations, visited affected areas in Padang, and toured the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Humanitarian Assistance Rapid Response Team (HARRT). The USAID/DART continues to assess conditions and aims to complete a program strategy as early as October 7. DoD continues to support the humanitarian response, including through the HARRT, ships en route to Padang, and helicopters that will provide heavy lift capacity. End summary.

Number of People Affected

¶2. As reported by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the GoI National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) confirmed on October 6 that the earthquake caused 704 deaths, with the majority in Padang city. An additional 295 people are reported missing. The number of casualties is expected to increase.

Preliminary Damage Assessment

¶3. Various reports indicate that the humanitarian situation in Padang appears to be stabilizing, and that needs are being met through a combination of GoI and local charitable resources as well as through relief agency support. According to the USAID/DART, preliminary damage assessments indicate that the most severely affected areas are north and east of Padang in Padang Pariaman and

Agam districts. Access to the most affected areas has reportedly not been a problem.

¶4. As reported by OCHA, the GoI BNPB confirmed that the quake severely damaged 88,272 houses, inflicted moderate damage on 43,323 houses, and slightly damaged 47,076 houses. The GoI Ministry of Health reported that 4 hospitals, 12 community health centers, and 10 supporting community health centers have collapsed. The GoI Ministry of Health has established field hospitals and deployed 3,000 health workers to the affected areas.

¶5. According to OCHA, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) reported that in Padang and Padang Pariaman, the majority of buildings, particularly single story residential housing, have sustained little or no damage. However, many multi-story buildings have either collapsed or sustained significant damage. In outlying villages, particularly in Padang Pariaman, housing sustained significant damage. UNDP reported that the earthquake destroyed between 70 and 100 percent of houses in remote villages. In these areas, villagers have established temporary shelters in front of houses and have begun to recycle building materials from damaged houses.

¶6. UNDP, according to OCHA, has confirmed at least three locations in Padang Pariaman district where large-scale landslides occurred, destroying entire villages and agricultural land. Options for recovery work in areas affected by landslides are limited, as many slopes remain unstable and heavy rains are increasing the risk of further landslides.

Humanitarian Coordination

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¶7. The USAID/DART reports that the cluster meetings appear to be well managed and that the cluster system seems highly effective. This is likely due to the fact that many of the cluster leads in West Sumatra were previously working on the response to the May 2006 earthquake in West Java. These cluster leads are bringing tools used in West Java to assist with coordination in West Sumatra. Clusters have significant capacity in West Sumatra also because NGOs have transferred staff from Aceh to West Sumatra and have been able to mobilize relief commodities stockpiled in Medan or close to Aceh. The humanitarian community has built capacity in Indonesia since the 2004 tsunami, and this strengthened capacity is benefiting the current humanitarian response.

USAID/DART Activities in Padang

¶8. On October 6, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ted Osius, U.S. Pacific Command-designated Mission Commander RADM Landolt, and Medan Principal Officer met with GoI officials and NGO representatives, visited affected areas in Padang, and toured the DoD HARRT. The delegation's visit received significant positive local media coverage, and the group spoke about U.S. capabilities and contributions at every opportunity. (Comment: The USG has received other positive media coverage, including through the BBC, which reported that the USG is providing "millions of dollars" to earthquake efforts. End comment.)

¶9. On October 6, the USAID/DART met with the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) Conflict, Humanitarian, and Security Department (CHASE) team, which, like the USAID/DART, is a deployable, rapid-response humanitarian team. The USAID/DART and the DFID/CHASE discussed program coordination. DFID's preliminary planning has been focused on shelter and water and includes plans to program nearly \$4.8 million through NGOs rather than U.N. agencies.

¶10. On October 6, the USAID/DART also met with NGOs operating in the area to determine possible geographic gaps in coverage and to ascertain priority humanitarian needs at present. The USAID/DART is using this information to formulate a program strategy, which will

be circulated as early as October 7.

¶11. The flight containing relief commodities from USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), originating in Dubai, has been postponed due to unexpected delays. The USAID/DART is working to expedite the arrival of the flight in Padang as soon as possible on October 8. Further information on the flight will be reported septel.

DoD Earthquake Response

¶12. The DoD HARRT, or mobile medical unit, was fully functional in Padang as of 0800 hours local time on October 7. The HARRT will augment local medical facilities to treat medical needs. Two U.S. ships are en route to Padang and scheduled to arrive on October 9, and an additional ship is scheduled to arrive on October 10. Helicopters with heavy lift capacity are arriving on the ships. Five helicopters will be operational on October 9.

¶13. The USAID/DART is fielding requests from NGOs to airlift supplies and teams on DoD helicopters to remote areas. The USAID/DART is working on a system to effectively fill these requests and may work with the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) to do so.

Osius#